ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a method and mechanism for processing expressions and operator trees. An approach is particularly useful to optimize processing of XML statements with respect to SQL operators. A top-down processing approach can be taken to directly output data from operators to a data stream. In addition, multiple processing approaches can be taken within a single expression tree, with some operators processed using the top-down approach and other operators processed with the bottom-up approach. Even data that can not be streamed is copied fewer times using this approach, intermediate values from bottom-up processing may still be streamed if it is used by an operator that is eligible for top-down processing.